



JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

John Chrysostom

27 January

d. 407

Bishop, Theologian, and Teacher

- ✦ Tried ascetic life, but his poor health, and his mother's, prevented him from full rigors
- ✦ Lived as "hermit" according to Pachomian Rule
- ✦ Became popular preacher in Antioch
- ✦ Kidnapped from Antioch to be installed as Patriarch of Constantinople
- ✦ Preaching against wealth and injustice irritated rich courtiers, empress
- ✦ Walked to death
- ✦ Doctor of the Eastern Church

Do you wish to honor the Body of the Savior? Do not despise it when it is naked. Do not honor it in church with silk vestments while outside it is naked and numb with cold. He who said, 'This is my body,' and made it so by his word, is the same that said, 'You saw me hungry and you gave me no food. As you did it not to the least of these, you did it not to me.' Honor him then by sharing your property.

These are words by which the slanderers of the nature, of the body, the impeachers of our flesh, are completely overthrown... We do not wish to cast aside the body, but corruption: not the flesh, but death. The body is one thing, corruption another; the body is one thing, death another... What is foreign to us is not the body but corruptibility.